

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. No new matter has been added to the application.

Enclosed are the following:

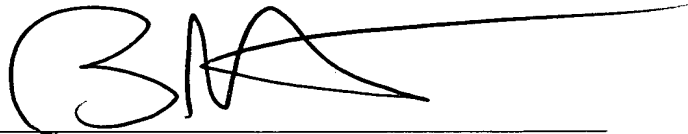
1. A Declaration;
2. Power of Attorney;
3. A copy of the formalities letter dated January 21, 2004;
4. Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b); and
5. A check in the amount of \$1,728 (basic fee: \$770; surcharge: \$130; \$828 for 46 excess claims) for government fees.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely. Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,



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Charles C. Garvey, Jr., Reg. No. 27,889

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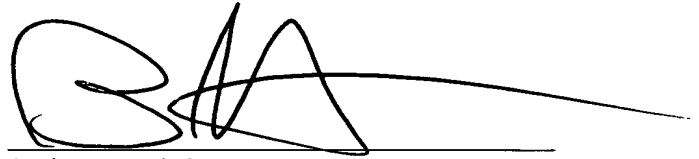
GARVEY, SMITH, NEHRBASS & DOODY, L.L.C.
PTO Customer No. 22920

3838 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 3290

Metairie, LA 70002
Tel.: (504) 835-2000
Fax: 504-835-2070

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 5, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Seth M. Nehrbass", written over a horizontal line.

Seth M. Nehrbass, Reg. No. 31,281

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